CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) In a milking parlor (10) adapted for milking milk producing animals comprising:

a row of milking stalls (14) accessible in serial order to said milk producing animals (12) from a front end (14a) of the row of milking stalls; and

an animal identification station (20) arranged at the front end of said row of milking stalls,

a method of automatically verifying identities of said milk producing animals (12) in said row of stalls (14) comprising the steps of:

- identifying said milk producing animals when entering said row of milking stalls (14) in serial order by means of said animal identification station;

- identifying a first one of the milk producing animals in the milking stall located at a far end (14b) of said row of milking stalls by means of a first identification member (24) provided in said milking stall located at the far end (14b) of said row of milking stalls;

- identifying a second one of the milk producing animals in the milking stall located at said front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14) by means of a second identification member (26) provided in said milking stall located at the front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls;

- identifying a third one of the milk producing animals in a milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls by means of a third identification member (28) provided in said milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls;

- comparing the identities of the first, second, and third identification members (24, 26, 28), respectively, with the first, last and n'th identities, respectively, of said animal identification station (20), and when counting from said far end of said row of milking stalls, said milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls is defined as the n'th milking stall; and

- depending on said comparison, verifying the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls,

wherein

- the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said far end and said milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls are verified provided that the identities of the first and third identification members (24, 28), respectively, match with the first and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station; and

- the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said milking stall located between said far and front ends and said front end of said row of milking stalls are verified provided that the identities of the second and third (26, 28)

identification members, respectively, match with the last and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of

- comparing the identities of the second and third identification members (26, 28), respectively, with the last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station; and

- if the -identities of the second and third identification members, respectively, match with the last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station correcting the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said milking stall located between said far and front ends and said front end of said row of milking stalls by using the (n-1)'th to last identities from said animal identification station as the identities of the milk producing animals in the stalls located from said milking stall located between said far and front ends to the milking stall located at said front end of said row of milking stalls; and

verifying the corrected identities only are performed provided that the identification of the first identification member (24) matches with the first identification from said animal identification station and that the identification of the third identification member (28) differs from the n'th identification from said animal identification station.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of

- comparing the identities of the first, second, and third identification members (24, 26, 28), respectively, with the second, last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station; and

- if the identities of the second and third identification members (26, 28), respectively, match with the last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station correcting the identities of the milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls by using the first to last identities from said animal identification station as the identities of the milk producing animals in the second to last milking stall of said row of milking stalls, as counted from the far end of said row of milking stalls, and by using the identification of the first identification member (24) as the identity of the milk producing animal in the milking stall at the far end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14); and

verifying the corrected identities are performed provided that the identities of the first, second, and third identification members (24, 26, 28), respectively, differ from the first, last and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the milking stall located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of milking stalls (14) is a milking stall located essentially half-way between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps of:

- identifying the third milk producing animal in a milking stall located between said far end (14a) and said station located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of stalls (14) by means of a fourth identification member (44) provided in that milking stall;

- comparing the identification of the fourth identification member (44) with the i'th identification from said animal identification station, where said milking stall located between said far end and said stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls is the i'th milking stall as counted from said far end of said row of milking stalls; and

- depending on said comparison of the identification of the fourth identification member with the i'th identification from said animal identification station verifying the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6 comprising the steps of:

- identifying the milk producing animal in a milking stall located between said station located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) and said front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14) by means of a fifth identification member (46) provided in that milking stall;

- comparing the identification of the fifth identification member (46) with the q'th identification from said animal identification station (20), where said milking stall located

between said milking stall located between said far and front ends and said front end of said row of milking stalls is the q'th milking stall as counted from said far end of said row of milking stalls; and

- depending on said comparison of the identification of the fifth identification member with the q'th identification from said animal identification station verifying the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said row of milking stalls (14) includes at least twelve milking stalls and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

- identifying the milk producing animals at least in every fourth milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls by means of a respective identification member (24, 26, 28, 44, 46) provided in said at least every fourth milking stall;

- comparing the identities of said respective identification member (24, 26, 28, 44, 46) provided in said at least every fourth milking stall, with respective corresponding identification from said animal identification station (20); and

- depending on said comparison of the identities of said respective identification member (24, 26, 28, 44, 46) provided in said at least every fourth milking stall, with respective corresponding identification from said animal identification station (20), verifying the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1wherein

- measurements of the milk produced by said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls are performed; and

- of said measurements only measurements of the milk produced by milk producing animals with verified identities are utilized in the management of said milk producing animals.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claims 9 wherein said measurements are weights, volumes or flows of the milk produced by said milk producing animals.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said milking parlor (10) is a milking parlor in any of a herringbone, a rotary, or a parallel milking stall configuration.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is performed by means of a computer (36).

13. (Previously Presented) In a milking parlor (10) adapted for milking milk producing animals, comprising:

a row of milking stalls (14) accessible in serial order to a plurality of milk producing animals (12) from a front end (14a) of the row of milking stalls; and

an animal identification station (20) arranged in the front end of said row of milking stalls for identifying said milk producing animals (20) when passing serially there through to enter said row of milking stalls (14), the milking parlor (10) adapted toautomatically verify identities of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls, and further comprising:

- a first identification member (24) for identifying the milk producing animal in the milking stall located at a far end (14b) of said row of milking stalls (14);

- a second identification member (26) for identifying the milk producing animal in the milking stall located at said front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14);

- a third identification member (28) for identifying the milk producing animal in a milking stall located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of milking stalls (14);

- a comparator (38) for comparing the identities of the first, second, and third identification members (24, 26, 28), respectively, with the first, last and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station (20), and when counting from said far end of said row of milking stalls, said milking stall located between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls is defined as the n'th milking stall ; and

- a verifier (40) for, depending on said comparison, verifying the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 13 wherein said verifier (40) is adapted

- to verify the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said far end (14b) and said milking stall located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of milking stalls (14) if the identities of the first and third identification members (24, 28), respectively, match with the first and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station (20); and

- to verify the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said stall located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) and said front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14) if the identities of the second and third identification members (26, 28), respectively, match with the last and n'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station (20).

15. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 13 further comprising means (42) for correcting identities, wherein

- said comparator (38) is adapted to compare the identities of the second and third identification members (26, 28), respectively, with the last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station (20) if the identification of the third identification member (28) differs from the n'th identification from said animal identification station (20);

- said means (42) for correcting identities is adapted to correct the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located between said milking stall located

between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) and said front end (14a) of said row of milking stalls (14) by using the (n-1)'th to last identities from said animal identification station (20) as the identities of the milk producing animals in the milking stalls located from said milking stall located between said far and front ends to the milking stall located at said front end of said row of milking stalls if the identities of the second and third identification members (26, 28), respectively, match with the last and (n-1)'th identities, respectively, from said animal identification station (20); and

- said verifier (40) is adapted to verify the corrected identities only.

16. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said third identification member (28) is provided in a milking stall located essentially half-way between said far and front ends of said row of milking stalls.

17. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13 wherein

- said arrangement comprises a plurality of identification members (24, 26, 28, 44, 46), each provided in a respective milking stall located between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of milking stalls (14) for identifying the milk producing animal therein;

- said comparator (38) is adapted to compare the identities of each of said plurality of identification members (24, 26, 28, 44, 46) with corresponding identities from said animal identification station (20); and

- said verifier (40) is adapted to, depending on said comparison, verify the identities of at least some of said milk producing animals in said row of milking stalls.

18. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said milking parlor (10) is a milking parlor in any of a herringbone, a rotary, or a parallel milking stall configuration.

19. (Previously Presented) The arrangement in claim 18 wherein

- said milking parlor is a rotary milking parlor comprising a rotatable circular row of milking stalls; and

- said first, second, and third identification members (24, 26, 28) are comprised of a single identification device (24, 26, 28), preferably arranged outside the rotatable circular row of milking stalls, and adapted to identify the milk producing animals in said milking stalls located at said far end (14b), at said front end (14a), and between said far and front ends (14a, 14b) of said row of milking stalls (14) as they pass by said single identification device.

20. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13 wherein said row of milking stalls (14) includes N stalls, where N is at least six, and said arrangement further comprises between three and N/2 identification members (24, 26, 28; 24, 26, 28, 44, 46)

essentially evenly distributed among the milking stalls in said row (14) of milking stalls, wherein

- said comparator (38) is adapted to compare the identities of the identification members (24, 26, 28; 24, 26, 28, 44, 46) with corresponding identities from said animal identification station (20); and

- said verifier (40) is adapted to verify the identities of milk producing animals in milking stalls located between two adjacent identification members (44, 28) provided that the identities of said two adjacent identification members (44, 28) match with corresponding identities from said animal identification station (20).